to our country. It was a very specific question put by him. It is a very important question also.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Give us some protection. I also asked two other points: What is the total foreign exchange earned by these companies? The Minister has not replied to this point. The second thing was: Which are the companies against whom cases of tax evasion are pending?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: The question is neither on the tax evasion nor on the foreign exchange.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Is it not a business activity? Do their methods of business constitute them as cartel or not? Hiking of prices is very unfair burden on the consumers. Sir, is this not part of the question? If it is not, I will sit down.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says tax evasion is not...

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: We are not talking about tax evasion. At least I am not talking about it. We are talking about the business activity conducted in a very dengerous and pernicious manner.... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Chatuananji, tax evasion does not come...

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: They are all evading taxes. It is part of their business... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please see the whole question. The question of checking the tax evasion is the job of the Finance Ministry and not the Ministry of Industry. But they may not make undue profit. that he will see. He has said that he will take care of that and if it is happening, he will stop it.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Sir, you have been kind enough to say that. He has not said that. (*Interruptions*)... He has not even relented. You have been kind enough to say that. Therefore, we sit down.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: I have already told that we are not encouraging these people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you discourage?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: We are discouraging, Sir.

*324. [*The questioner (Shri Satya Prakash Malaviya) was absent. For answer* vide *col.* 37-38 infra]

Leakage of Kerosene from the Storage tank at Noonmati, Gauwahati

*325. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: †
SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of superior kerosene gushed out of a storage tank of the public sector refinery area at Noonmati near Guwahati in October last; if so, what were the reasons of the leak and what was the quantity and cost of Kerosene lost; what measures were taken to deal with the situation; and

(b) whether any enquiry was conducted into the leakage if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) There was an incident of kerosene leakage from process piping in Guwahati Refinery on 30-10-1988. When the transfer of kerosene was being done from one tank to another using a pump, the leakage of kerosene took place through a section of discharge line which was taken out of service earlier for some modification job but was inadvertantly not isolated properly.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Kapil Verma.

The quantity of oil that leaked was about 7,000 litres and its cost was about Rs. 13,600/- based on ex-refinery price. However, substantial quantity of the leaked oil was recovered subsequently from the inbuilt oil trap provided in surface drain channel.

(b) A Departmental enquiry to investigate into the incident was instituted by IOC on 31-10-1988. The Committee recommended that to prevent recurrence of such incidents the system should be improved through multiple checks by area engineer as well as area Manager before giving clearance for charging any line/system, which has been released for some maintenance/modification jobs. Action for implementing these recommendations has already been initiated. Also administrative action is being initiated against concerned employees responsible for the incident.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Sir, this it a serious matter and only the departmental enquiry has been held. I would like to know who has conducted the departmental inquiry and whether the Government will consider holding an independent agency inquiry so that public confidence is inspired and public interest is protected.

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: Sir, the total loss was 7,000 litres of oil that amounted to Rs. 13,600. Out of this, we have recovered about 5,600 litres of oil. That means, the net loss is Rs. 2,600. The Enquiry Committee was constituted by the General Manager, Guwahati Refinery. The Inquiry Officer was a Senior Technical Service Manager and the report was submitted on 7th November. Now, we are taking action against four officers who are supposed to be responsible for this leakage. It was a leakage. It was not a spill-over. I think, these steps are sufficient to protect the interest of the refinery and also to inspire confidence.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Sir, the General Manager of the Refinery has said that there have been many occurrences of this kind. I want to know why precautionary steps were not taken to prevent such things from happening. I also want to know what was the number of staff against whom action has been taken and what specific action has been taken.

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: Sir, I have already submitted that there was leakage when the kerosene oil was being transferred from one tank to another tank and we are taking action against a Senior Production Engineer, Production Manager, Deputy Production Manager ...(*Interruptions*). Action is being taken. I will inform the hon. Member when it is finalised. We have also ensured proper steps that are enumerated in the statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your second question, Mr. Verma.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Sir, I was asking how many incidents have taken place in the past six months?

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: That information as to how many incidents have taken place in the past six months is not with me.

श्रीमती सत्या बहिन : सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से यह पूछना चाहूंगी कि जिस लाइन से तेल छोड़ा जाता था उसे बन्द किया गया, यह बताया गया कि अनजाने में उसको अलग नहीं किया जा सका। मैं आपसे अनजाने का तात्पर्य जानना चाहूंगी कि क्या वहां पर अनट्रेंड और केजुअल वर्कर्ज से काम लिया जाता है ?

श्री ब्रह्म दत्त : मान्यवर, इसमें अनट्रेंड का कोई सवाल नहीं है इसमें थोड़ा लीकेज था लेकिन जो तमाम चीजें सामने आई है उनमें लीकेज को हर प्वाइंट के ऊपर जहां पकड़ा जा सकता था पकड़ा । इसीलिए इतनी रिकवरी भी हुई । फिर भी हम ने इस तरह से काम किया है कि जिन लोगों की थोड़ी सी भी लापरवाही साबित हुई है उनके खिलाफ हम एक्शन ले रहे हैं और लीकेज न होने देने के लिए भी जो स्टेप्स लिये जाने चाहिये वह भी लिये जाएं ।

श्रीमती सत्या बहिन : मान्यवर, डिपो मेनेजर राम नगर में जो है उन्होंने बताया कि कुछ बगैर सुपरविजन के

काम हो रहा है और अनट्रेंड तथा केजुअल लेबर से काम किया जा रहा है (**व्यवधान**)

ठाकुर जगतपाल सिंह : विदाउट सुपरविजन काम हो रहा है और केजुअल लेबर से काम लिया जा रहा है। (**व्यवधान**)

श्री ब्रह्म दत्त : मान्यवर, रिफाइनरी के अन्दर कोई काम बगैर सुपरविजन के नहीं होता है ।

श्री सभापति : अगर कहीं हो रहा है तो बता दीजिये ।

श्री ब्रह्म दत्त : अगर कहीं हो रहा है तो इसको देखा जाएगा (**व्यवधान**) मैं खुद इस बात से सहमत हूं कि यह बहुत खतरनाक मामला है इसमें इस प्रकार की बात नहीं होनी चाहिये ।

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: I would like to know whether the Inquiry Officer has also investigated the possibility of sabotage, if so, what is the result?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

इलाहाबाद में खराब टेलीफोन सेवा

*324. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय** : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को इलाहाबाद में खराब टेलीफोन सेवा की जानकारी है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में क्या-क्या उपचारी उपाय किए जा रहे हैं ?

संचार मंत्री (श्री वीर बहादुर सिंह) : (क) इलाहाबाद की टेलीफोन सेवा सामान्यतया संतोषजनक है ।

(ख) सेवा में आगे सुधार लाने के लिए, दीर्घकालिक उपाय के बतौर 2700 लाइनों के कार्य अवधि समाप्त स्ट्रोजर एक्सचेंज को 1989-90 के दौरान इलेक्ट्रानिक एक्सचेंज में बदला जा रहा है । इसके अलावा, मिशन बेहतर संचार के अंतर्गत, इलाहाबाद की टेलीफोन सेवाओं में सुधार लाने के लिए निम्नलिखित उपाय किए जा रहे हैं :—

(1) आंतरिक और बाह्य संयंत्रों का और विशेष रूप से एक्सचेंज जंक्शनों का व्यापक परीक्षण करना ताकि अंतर एक्सचेंज के कार्यकरण में सुधार आ जाए ।

(2) उपभोक्ताओं के पुराने उपकरणों को उन्नत किस्म के नए टेलीफोन उपकरणों में बदलना ।

(3) उपभोक्ता लूपों को इंस्यूलेटेड ड्रप वायर में बदलना ।

(4) वितरण प्वाइंटों (डी पी) को पुनर्व्यवस्थित करना ।

(5) भूमिगत केबिलों का प्रयोग करके ओवरहैड एलाइनमेंट को कम करना ।

Increase in the Limit of House Building advance for employees of Public Sector Undertakings

*326. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the House Building Advance and the rate of interest thereon for the employees of the public sector undertakings on Central Government pay-pattern since the implementation of the Third Pay Commission's recommendations have been on the same lines as applicable to the Central Government employees;

(b) if so, whether Government have issued any fresh instructions to revise the limit of the House Building Advance of such employees whose wage revision is pending with the High Powered Pay Com-